

REMARKS:

A Request for an Examiner Interview is filed concurrently herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-32 were rejected.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 27, 28, 31 and 32 have been amended, claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claim 33 has been added. Thus, claims 1 and 4-33 are pending and under consideration. No new matter is being presented and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112¹2:

Claims 27 and 28 are amended herein. Specifically, claim 27 is amended to depend from claim 8 that recites "a component database" to provide antecedent basis for the "said component database" recitation in claim 27, and claim 28 is amended to recite "a data exchange section" to provide antecedent basis for the "said data exchange" recitation in claim 28.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims 27 and 28 is overcome.

III. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claims 1-13, 21-23 and 29-32 are rejected as being anticipated by Beauchesne et al., claims 1, 4, 6, 8-20 are rejected as being anticipated by Mateau et al., and claims 11 and 23-26 are rejected as being anticipated by Fischer et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 31 and 32 as amended recite, "determining said element types or specifications of said element types based on said element types selected by said selection section" in accordance with stored "determination information in association with said element types".

It is respectfully submitted that neither Beauchesne et al., Mateau et al. nor Fischer et al. teach or suggest, "determining said element types or specifications of said element types based on said element types selection", as recited in amended independent claims 1, 31 and 32.

Independent claims 1, 31 and 32 as amended also recite that the determination information is at least one of "a conditional expression having information pertaining to another

constituent element or element type complying with the selected element type, ... and an incidental expression having information to be used for preventing reflection of information about a specific constituent element or element type in response to the selected element type”, which would otherwise be caused when corresponding element types have been selected. This, for example, enables the present invention to indicate impossible or inefficient combinations of elements during design of a manufacturing line.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Beauchesne et al., Mateau et al. nor Fischer et al. teach or suggest, determining the element types or specifications of the element types based on determination information having “a conditional expression” or “an incidental expression”, as recited in independent claims 1, 31 and 32.

Therefore, it is submitted that the independent claims 1, 31 and 32 are patentably distinguishable over Beauchesne et al.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from independent claims 1, 31 and 32 are patentably distinguishable over Beauchesne et al., Mateau et al. and Fischer et al. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, as recited in claims 12 and 13, “[a] component database performs sorting and extraction of information about said components registered in said component database while taking predetermined conditions as a key”. None of the cited references teach or suggest, “said component database performs sorting and extraction of information about said components registered in said component database while taking predetermined conditions as a key”.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-32 is overcome.

IV. NEW CLAIM

New claim 33 is added to recite, a method including “providing stored selectable information of element types in relation to a manufacturing line”, “receiving a selection from the provided information of the element types and determining element types and specification corresponding to the selected information for forming the manufacturing line” and “outputting information of the manufacturing line responsive to the received selection in accordance with the stored information of the element types, wherein the stored information of the element types is associated with conditions defining a relationship of the element types to a constituent element or other element types”.

It is respectfully submitted that new claim 33 is patentably distinguishable over the cited

references.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 24, 2005

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
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Date: 02/24/05